

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

a port to allow the device to communicate with a called endpoint;

a processor to:

send a call request message associated with a call to the called endpoint, the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement; and

indicate a desire to delay call establishment until a delay point is reached.
2. (currently amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the processor further to receive a notification that a delay point has been reached.
3. (currently amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the processor further to determine if the call is to be established and, if the call is to be established, notify the called endpoint.
4. (currently amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein the network device comprising a calling endpoint.
5. (currently amended) A method of delaying call establishment, the method comprising:

transmitting a call request message associated with a call to a called endpoint identifying a delay point, the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement.
6. (original) The method of claim 5, the method comprising receiving a notification from the called endpoint that the delay point has been reached.
7. (original) The method of claim 5, the method comprising determining if the call is to be established.

8. (original) The method of claim 5, the method comprising notifying the called endpoint if the call is to be established.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, the method comprising performing maintenance testing without notifying the called endpoint to start alerting a called user, wherein maintenance comprises at least one of the group comprised of: quality of service (QoS) testing, service level verification, probing endpoints, querying for services supported by a device, ~~etc.~~
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein transmitting a call request message comprising transmitting a session initiation protocol INVITE message.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein transmitting a call request message comprising transmitting an H.323 Setup message.
12. (canceled)
13. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, the method comprising receiving a notification from the called endpoint comprising a Delay Point Reached message.
14. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, the method comprising notifying the called endpoint further comprising sending a Delayed Call Establishment Release message.
15. (currently amended) A method of delayed call establishment, the method comprising:
receiving a call request message associated with a call indicating a need for delayed call establishment and identifying a delay point, the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement.
16. (original) The method of claim 15, the method comprising
transmitting a response indicating availability of delayed call establishment; and
progressing the call to the delay point.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, the method comprising notifying a calling endpoint that that delay point has been reached.
18. (original) The method of claim 15, the method comprising processing the call as indicated by the calling endpoint.
19. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, the method comprising processing the call ~~comprising~~ which comprises alerting a user, of a called endpoint, of the call.
20. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, processing the call comprising performing maintenance or other tasks without alerting ~~the~~ a user.
21. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:
a port to allow the device to communicate with a calling endpoint;
a processor to:
receive a call request message associated with a call from the calling endpoint, the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement;
respond with a notification of delayed call establishment availability; and
process the call to a delay point.
22. (currently amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the processor further to transmit a notification that a delay point has been reached
23. (currently amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the processor further to determine if the call is to be established and, if the call is to be established, notify a user.
24. (currently amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the network device comprising a called endpoint.
25. (currently amended) The network device of claim 21, wherein the calling endpoint comprising an intermediary.

26. (currently amended) An article of ~~machine~~computer-readable media ~~containing~~ storing computer executable instructions that, when executed, cause the ~~machine~~ computer to:

transmit a call request message associated with a call to a called endpoint identifying a delay point.

27. (currently amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to receive a notification from the called endpoint that the delay point has been reached.

28. (currently amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to determine if the call is to be established.

29. (currently amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to notify the called endpoint if the call is to be established.

30. (currently amended) The article of claim 26, wherein the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to perform maintenance testing without notifying the called endpoint to start alerting a called user, wherein maintenance comprises at least one of the group comprised of: quality of service (QoS) testing, service level verification, probing endpoints, querying for services supported by a device, etc.

31. (currently amended) An article of ~~machine~~computer-readable media containing computer executable instructions that, when executed, cause the ~~machine~~ computer to:

receive a call request message associated with a call indicating a need for delayed call establishment and identifying a delay point.

32. (currently amended) The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to

transmit a response indicating availability of delayed call establishment; and

progress the call to the delay point.

33. (currently amended) The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to notify a calling endpoint that that delay point has been reached.

34. (currently amended) The article of claim 31, the instructions further causing the ~~machine~~ computer to process the call as indicated by the calling endpoint.

35. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

a means for allowing the device to communicate with a called endpoint;

a means for sending a call request message associated with a call to the called endpoint,
the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability advertisement; and

a means for indicating a desire to delay call establishment until a delay point is reached.

36. (currently amended) A network device, comprising:

a means for allowing the device to communicate with a calling endpoint;

a means for receiving a call request message associated with a call from the calling
endpoint, the call request message including a delayed call establishment capability
advertisement;

a means for responding with a notification of delayed call establishment availability; and

a means for processing the call to a delay point.